

Karen Spracklen
9717 Wintergardens Blvd, Unit 180
Lakeside, CA 92040

RE: FCC Proceeding 04-233

My 1 ½ hr daily commute is made bearable by radio. I have listened to commercial stations and to listener-supported non-commercial stations. Regardless of the station type, I fail to see any valid reason for many of the current regulations under consideration.

A commercial station sells advertising. Obviously, the advertiser must believe that people are listening, or they would not pay for an ad. If the station isn't meeting any need in the community, no one would be listening and no one would support the station with ads.

A non-commercial station depends on listeners to send contributions. If the station is not meeting a need in the community, no one would listen, let alone send money.

Either type of station, therefore, is subject to the approval (or disapproval) of many in the community. Your consideration that some sort of community advisor board is needed is absurd. Instituting such boards would take the power to support or not support a station out of the hands of the community and put it in the hands of just a few. We don't need representation. We already have the power ourselves to support or to change stations and their programming. We know how to write letters and make phone calls. If we are not heeded, we take our ears else where, to a station that is meeting our own perceived need. If we are not writing and calling, then we are either satisfied, or at least don't see any problem urgent enough to call us to action.

The proposal to require reporting of how the station's programming reflects the interests of a cross-section of local residents is unnecessarily burdensome for the same reason. We already have a voice to use.

I also have grave concerns about stations being required to allow anyone to have some airtime. Not all stations are the same—and we like that, of course—so it is absurd to force all stations to carry anything and everything from anyone that wants a voice. That would make them all too much alike and violate the mission and “personality” of each station. There are times I want news and traffic, so I turn to one of the stations that carry those. There are times I want to listen to a conservative talk show, so I turn to one of those. When I want to hear the other side, there are stations that broadcast that for me as well. Sometimes I want to listen to a call-in show about

various health topics. And sometimes, I just want to listen to music. It is not your place to turn this country's radio stations into what would be cookie-cutter, government-run, all-sound-the same outlets that have such broad content that none of us can find one that interests us enough to listen. If you tell stations that they have to air anything that someone requests, then you are violating the rights of the listeners who tune to that station for a particular type of programming!! You do not have the right to dictate what we should listen to, nor does anyone else that is trying to get you to force stations to give them air time.